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Amendment B

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. The subject Response is submitted in reply to the final office action mailed on March 8, 2004. Claims 1-12 remain pending and no amendments have been made to the claims.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time to participate in an Examiner Interview on May 13, 2004. In the Interview, the objections to the Drawings were discussed. The Examiner agreed that the amendment to FIG. 5 and the inclusion of FIG. 5A submitted in the previous Amendment filed December 24, 2003 addressed the objections with the exception of an indication that the "tool interface means" of the bolt and/or nut extends "beyond" the entire crank assembly. As such, it was agreed that the claims should read "tool interface means of said bolt faces to the outside of said crank assembly," and similar language for the "nut." Applicant directs the Examiner to originally filed claims 10 and 11, where the claim language already reads as the Examiner requested. Therefore, Applicant believes the amendments to FIG. 5 and the addition of FIG. 5A as previously presented address all of the Examiner's objections. If Applicant has incorrectly interpreted the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned so that these issues can be resolved.

The prior art reference U.S. Patent No. 4,310,273 (Kirsch) was also discussed in relation to the Examiner's 103 rejection of the pending independent claims. Specifically, it was agreed that the tool interface 58 in the head 48 of the nut 50 of the

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Kirrish patent did not extend beyond the head 48. The Examiner in the final office action, made reference to a small "cylindrical bore" in the nut. Applicant and the Examiner failed to reach an agreement that the "cylindrical bore" extends into the threaded sleeve portion 50 of the nut. However, the Examiner did agree that this small "cylindrical bore" was not part of the tool interface, and instead separated the tool interface from the threaded cylindrical portion 50. It was further agreed that the tool interface therefore was not "formed inside said shaft" as recited in independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 12. Therefore, the Kirrish patent, and the combination of the Kirrish and the International PCT Application WO 93/08071, fail to teach or make obvious at least a "nut comprising . . . a tool interface means formed inside said cylinder," and thus independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 12, and the claims that depend there from, are not obvious over the applied references.

Turning to the specific objections and rejections:

1. Drawings Under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a)

As indicated above, it was agreed that the previous amendment filed on December 24, 2003 that included FIG. 5A addressed the Drawing objects. Therefore, Applicant believes the objections to the Drawings have been overcome.

2. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1- 12 as being unpatentable over published PCT Application No. WO93/08071 (referred to below as the WO9308071 reference) in view of Kirrish, U.S. Patent No. 4,310,273 (referred to below as the Kirrish reference). However, as indicated above, the Examiner agreed during the Examiner Interview of May 13, 2004, that the combination of the WO9308071 reference and the Kirrish patent fail to teach at least "a tool interface means formed inside said cylinder" as recited in independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 12. Therefore, the combination fails to make claims 1-12 obvious, and thus claims 1-12 are in a condition for allowance.

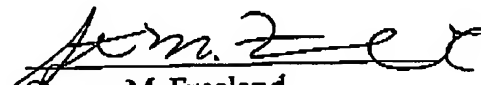
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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the above remarks demonstrate that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

6/8/04
Date


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